

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 5, 6, and 8-12 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please AMEND claims 1, 2, 4, 7, and 13 as follows. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Currently Amended) An original cover of an image reading apparatus comprising:

a cover member for covering an original placed on an original stand; [and]
a hinge member having one end thereof [~~pivottally~~] supported by said cover member [~~and having~~] by means of rotary shafts such that said cover member and said hinge member are pivotable relative to each other about said rotary shafts, the other end [~~thereof~~] of said hinge member being mounted on and pivotally supported by said original stand; and
a biasing member for biasing said cover member in a direction in which said cover member is opened with respect to said hinge member,

wherein said cover member is restrained with respect to said hinge member in an axial direction of said rotary shafts by said biasing member.

2. (Currently Amended) The original cover according to Claim 1, wherein said hinge member is pivotally supported by [other] another area than an end portion of said cover member.

3. (Original) The original cover according to Claim 1, wherein said cover member has its pivotally movable range restricted with respect to said hinge member.

4. (Currently Amended) The original cover according to Claim 3, wherein at least one of said cover member and said hinge member is provided with a restricting portion for restricting the pivotally movable range of said cover member in said direction in which said cover member is opened with respect to said hinge member.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The original cover according to [Claim 5 or 6] Claim 1, wherein said biasing member is a torsion coil spring.

8-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus comprising:
an original cover as recited in any one of Claims [1 to 6 or 10 to 12] 1, 2, 3, 4,
or 7; and
image reading means for reading image information of an original placed on an
original stand.